

## POETRY.

## MY MOTHER.

BY ELIZABETH P. LOVEJOY.

"Men forget but all will not be forgotten."

There is a fire that burns on earth,  
A pure and holy flame;  
It came to men from heavenly birth,  
And still it is the same.  
As when it burst the choral song—  
That bore the first-born seraph's song—  
Sweet as the hymn of gratitude  
That swells to heaven "when all was good."  
No passion in the choir above  
Is purer than a mother's love!

My Mother! how that name endears,  
Through memory's griefs and sorrow's tears!  
I see thee now, as I have seen—  
With thy young boy beside thee:  
Thou didst not know, nor couldst thou deem  
The ill that would befall me  
For sorrow then had dimmed that eye  
Which beamed with only ecstasy.

Ah! life was then a joyous thing,  
And time bore pleasure on its wing.  
How buoyant did the minutes move—  
For I was hope, and thou wert love!  
Beneath thy smiles I closed the day,  
And met thee at the morning ray;  
My infant heart was full of glee,  
And every chord struck harmony.  
And often as there would befall  
Some little grief my heart to gall,  
I bore them to my Mother's side,  
And one kind kiss dispelled them all.

And I have knelt with thee, when none  
Wert near but thou and I,  
In trembling awe before the throne  
Of Mercy in the sky;  
And when thy melted heart was poured  
Before the Being thou adored,  
How holy was that prayer of thine,  
As offering for a heavenly shrine!  
Not for thyself a wish—no one—  
But for the world, Lord, bless my son!  
And I have risen, and gone my way,  
And seem'd to have forgot;  
Yet of my wandering thoughts would stray  
Back to that hallow'd spot;  
While feelings, new and undefined,  
Would crowd upon my laboring mind.

O days of innocence and peace!  
O ill exchanged for manhood's years!  
When mirth, that springs from youthful bliss,  
Is drown'd beneath misfortune's tears.  
My heart has since been sadly worn,  
While waves on waves have o'er it borne;  
And feelings, once all fresh and green,  
Are now as though they ne'er had been;  
And hope, that bright and buoyant thing,  
E'en hope has lent despair its wing;  
And sits despoil'd within my breast,  
A timid, trembling, trembling guest.  
I dare not look upon the past,  
I care not for the future cast;  
Yet o'er this darkness of the soul  
There comes one cheering beam,  
Pure, warm, and bright, of rapture full  
As angel visitations—  
A Mother's love, a Mother's care—  
My aching heart, there's comfort there!  
It is as if a lovely rose  
Should bloom amid the icy waste;  
For while the heart's life-streams are froze,  
Its fragrance o'er it still is cast.

Weary and worn, my bed I've shared  
With sickness and with pain;  
Nor one, of all that care me, cared  
If e'er I rose again;  
Headless and quick they pass'd along,  
With noisy mirth and riddling song;  
And not a hand outstretched, to give  
A cordial that should bid me live.  
And woman, too, that nurse of ease,  
Made up of love and sympathies—  
Ah, woman, she—she pass'd me by,  
With cold, averted, careless eye;  
Nor deign'd to ask, nor seem'd to care,  
If death and I were struggling there!  
Ah! then I've thought, and felt it, too,  
My Mother is not such as you!  
How would she sit beside my bed,  
And pillow up my aching head;  
And then, in accents true as mild,  
"Would I were suffering for thee, child!"  
And try to soothe my griefs away,  
And lead me on more than she could say;  
And press her cheek to mine, nor fear  
Though plague or fever wou'd not there;  
And watch through weary nights and lone,  
Nor deem fatigue could be her own.  
And if, perchance, I slept, the last  
Tears, her eyes, would on me cast;  
And when I woke, 'twould be to meet  
Thine eyes, kind, anxious glances, so sweet,  
And so enfolding, that it seem'd  
As from a seraph's eye it beam'd.

My Mother! I am far away  
From home, and love, and thee;  
And stranger hands may heap the clay  
That soon may cover me.  
Yet we shall meet—perhaps not here—  
But in yon shining sphere;  
And if there's aught assures me more,  
Ere yet my spirit fly,  
That Heaven has mercy still in store  
For such a wretch as I,  
'Tis that a heart so good as thine  
Must bleed—must burst along with mine.

And life is short at best, and Time  
Must soon prepare the tomb;  
And there is sure a happier clime  
Beyond this world of gloom;  
And should it be my happy lot,  
After a life of care and pain,  
In sadness spent, or spent in vain,  
To go where angels and sin are not—  
'Twill make the half my heaven to be,  
My Mother, evermore with thee!

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Vermont Bible Society.

TWENTY-SIX years have passed since the VERMONT BIBLE SOCIETY commenced its benevolent work of facilitating the circulation of the Word of Life, amongst the destitute of this and other lands. Its Directors find occasion for thankfulness to God, in the belief that the Bible cause still maintains an increasing interest among christians and philanthropists of every name.

The last report of the American Bible Society brings cheering intelligence of increasing demands for the scriptures in christian and pagan countries. The obstacles which have hindered their free course, appear to be vanishing away, and the time seems to be at hand, when, if the friends of this cause make efforts equal to the circumstances which demand them, every member of the human family will read in his own tongue, the wonderful works of God. While the Sacred Scriptures are finding free access to China, Japan and other pagan countries, from which

they were till recently excluded by governmental authority, it is gratifying to learn that national societies for the circulation of the Bible without note or comment, are sustained to a considerable extent, in most of the Catholic countries of Europe. Notwithstanding the pecuniary embarrassments of our own country, during the past year, the cause in general has advanced as much, it is believed, as during any previous year. The A. B. Society reports 23 new auxiliary societies, in 11 different States, formed during the year.

Eighty-five thousand six hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-three cents have been collected, in payment for books sold, in bequests, and in contributions. There have been printed 34,000 bibles and 102,000 testaments, in English, German, Spanish and French—making in all 152,292 copies, and an aggregate since the formation of the society, of two millions three thousand two hundred and ninety-eight. This report spreads out before us many interesting facts concerning the operations of local societies in different parts of the country, which we have not room to notice in detail.

It appears that extensive fields are opening for the circulation of the Scriptures, at home and abroad, and in many of these the work is progressing with encouraging success. The boatmen upon our rivers, lakes and canals are receiving the Word of Life: the sailor too has this precious boon of philanthropy, that when far from the sanctuary and christian friends, he may sit down in his ocean solitude, and read of God, and Christ, and the sacred duties in which he had been instructed in childhood, that a mother's prayers and a father's solemn counsels and the thundering tones of gospel warnings from the desk of the long-forgotten sanctuary, may live afresh in his memory.

Calls for bibles have been received from Canada and from Texas. In some parts of South America there is a desire abroad for reading the scriptures. In Spain, even, where civil war is raging with more than its usual violence, the providence of God is at the same time opening the way for the diffusion of his long-excluded Word. A protestant merchant residing there, in soliciting from the society a grant of Spanish Scriptures, writes:

"There is not the least doubt, in my mind, that Divine Providence is now opening a way for the dissipation of the horrible abuses and crimes which, under the holy name of religion, have so long stained this most unhappy, but finest country of the globe, and of which the intelligent portion of the nation now begin to see the effects. Believe me, sir, when I tell you from my own personal observation, as well as collected information, that the way is now open; and if proper and prompt measures are adopted we may reasonably expect, ay, even in our time, to see the Gospel, founded on the apostles and prophets, and not on tradition, that great corner stone of Romish superstition—established in this country."

In regard to the operations of the Vermont Bible Society during the past year, the Directors regret to say, that less has probably been accomplished than during either of the previous three years. But they do not think that this is owing to any diminution of interest in the bible cause; for, wherever its claims have been presented through your agent, it has met with most gratifying encouragement. Liberal contributions have been made by men of all denominations and by all classes of the community.

While it gives the Directors pleasure to bear testimony to the continued faithfulness and zeal of your agent, from the pecuniary embarrassments of the times, and for other reasons which seemed to render it expedient, he has been excused from the service of the society during seven months of the year. One occasion of this suspension of his operations was the urgent demand for ministerial labors in several towns where the seed of the Kingdom had been scattered the preceding year—the result of which has been the gathering of some precious fruits into the gospel garner, and the organization of two churches.

His labors in the services of the society have been confined to Washington & Orange counties. As far as the agent has proceeded in them, the re-supply, contemplated in the resolution of last year, "to place a copy of the bible in every family in the State, and a new testament in the hands of every child under fifteen years of age who can read it," has been thoroughly attended to, so that the counties of Chittenden, Franklin, Orleans, Essex, and Washington and a part of Orange, are now supplied—and additional evidence is furnished at every step, in the progress of this work, that this labor of love, of the Society, is greatly needed, and shall not be in vain, and demands imperatively the carrying out of the resolution of last year without delay. No town has been explored without finding an unexpected number of families, either entirely destitute of a Bible, or possessing only the fragments of one. In one town, where the agent was assured by those best qualified to judge, that there was not a family destitute of a bible in town, six families in one school district were found who had just claims upon the bounty of the Society—and one of these was the family of a preacher of the gospel. The children and youth in every place receive the precious gift of a new testament with readiness, and with expressions of joy and gratitude which seem to give assurance that the word shall not return void.

In alluding to the claims which the bible cause in general has upon the christian public, the directors feel that nothing can be added in its support beyond what is evinced in its own manifest excellence. Addressing itself as it does, with equal courtesy to christians of every name and denomination, its conciliating spirit must be recognized, and the great benefits it is designed to confer upon the world cannot fail to be appreciated. The influence of this cause in respect to denominational prejudices and interests is beautifully illustrated in the observation concerning the late John

Nichie, Esq., treasurer of the A. B. Society, whose death is noticed in its last annual report. "His constant intercourse with christians of different names, so harmoniously blended in this society, had led him well nigh to forget his denominational predilections, and to value most those, of whatever church, who most loved the simple word of God, and engaged with the greatest zeal in the work of its dissemination."

The cause of the Bible must and will carry its own interest along with it. If its presentation at Exeter Hall to the assembled virtue of the British metropolis enkindles in their souls the spirit of philanthropy, it possesses none the less interest when presented at the door of the retired cottager. The eloquence of the most talented philanthropist the world has ever seen, cannot describe what is realized by the humble peasant who has read the bible as the book of life, and felt the breathings of its sacred power. The truths which it reveals take hold of the deepest interests of man. From a knowledge of these truths is derived all the permanent happiness of this life, and all the anticipated enjoyments of the heavenly state. Heathen philosophers have attempted to teach their disciples the art of being happy, but some have defeated their ostensible object in accommodating their precepts to the corrupt passions of human depravity, while others have merely speculated upon abstract precepts which no one ever did or ever could observe, and have come to the conclusion that man is, and necessarily must be, a vicious and miserable being.

To impart to the ignorant and dark-hearted heathen a *more sure word of prophecy*, is certainly a work becoming the spirit of christian philanthropy; for when all the airy visions of human speculation shall have vanished into confusion, the bible shall still abide, the friend and counsellor of man, in all its clearness and in all its life and power. It will survive when the heavens and the earth shall pass away. Infidelity will see it in the hands of Him who sitteth on the great white throne, from whose presence the heavens and the earth shall flee away, and out of the things which are written therein shall the dead be judged, according to their works. When the judgment shall have passed, and the society of the blessed in heaven shall be constituted in their eternal organization, the bible shall still live—the light of heaven's glory and the text-book of eternal song.

What better boon can friendship or benevolence impart to our fellow-men, than this blessed book? Would we give them bread?—this is the bread of life. Would we give them treasure?—this may secure them a treasure imperishable in the skies. Would we give them friendship?—this will direct them to a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Would we give them pearls?—this may secure them the pearl of great price, and prepare even themselves to shine as jewels in the crown of their Redeemer and King.

## THE VERMONT BIBLE SOCIETY, IN ACCOUNT WITH J. LOOMIS, TREASURER.

1837, Nov. 10.	Dr.
To paid Am. Bible Society by draft	\$1360 00
April.	
To paid Am. Bible Society by draft	165 00
To paid premium for draft	7 62
For printing annual Reports, and covers	97 33
For transportation of Bibles and extracts	75 75
For 14 boxes and packing Bibles	5 34
To paid Jos. Seely, agent, in part for services	274 07
To paid expense of annual meeting, Oct. 1837	2 00
To paid postage on letters and extracts	3 44
To room rent for Treasurer	6 00
To Stationary for ditto	3 00
1838, Nov.	
To paid premium for draft on Boston	56
To paid Jos. Seely balance of his account	69 98
To paid C. L. Knapp, Secretary, for cash paid out	6 19
To one bill on Roxbury Bank (broken)	1 50
To extra services of Treasurer for the year ending	25 00
October, 1838	
To preparing County Reports for the press	5 00
	2107 78
To balance credited in new account	2761 18
	\$4,868 96

1837, Oct. 18.		\$4,868 96
By cash in Treasury from settlement of last acc't	\$1750 63	
1838, Oct. 17.		
By cash during the year received from all sources, and for various purposes, as by the several County statements appears :		
From Orange County	1222 48	
" Washington "	694 94	
" Caledonia "	199 00	
" Rutland "	220 51	
" Windham "	83 30	
" Windsor "	79 25	
" Essex "	106 07	
" Addison "	238 08	
" Franklin "	147 00	
" Orleans "	16 65	
" Lamoille "	19 00	
Female B. Society, Royalton	12 00	
For Bibles sold from Treasury	38 03	
Annual members, Phineas White	2 00	
Samuel Clark	2 00	
Robert Pierpont	2 00	
Joseph Howes	2 00	
Elijah Paine	2 00	
Widow Jane Benedict, Ogdensburg, N.Y. for China	2 00	
Contribution at Annual Meeting, Oct. 1838	29 49	
Supposed error in adding County returns	53	

## OFFICERS.

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Divine Providence.—The chariot wheels of God's providence attend not on the haste and eagerness of man. He hath eternity to work in; and his dealings refuse all such measurement and reckoning as can be applied to them by the creatures of a day.—*Phil. Observer.*

## The Hope of the Christian.

What is its foundation? The merits and the promise of Jesus Christ. He is the grand Polar Star to whom the eye of faith is turned amidst all the tossings and tempests which the believer encounters. Here, he anchors his hope, and looks upwards with an unchanging confidence, that his Redeemer will keep that which he has committed to his hands. His language is—

"In vain we seek for peace with God,  
By methods of our own;  
Blest Savior, nothing but thy blood  
Can bring us near thy throne."

What is the influence of the Christian's hope? It makes him more holy. When he thinks of the depths of sin from which he has been recovered, he is led to magnify the riches of Divine grace. Often he inquires, with devoted gratitude—

"Why was I made to hear thy voice,  
And enter while there's room?"

The hope of the Christian produces a tender concern for the salvation of sinners. It is among the first impulses of the renewed nature to care for others. A professor who feels no emotions of sorrow and pain when he sees the transgressions of the wicked, has strong reason to fear that his hope rests on the sand. The Psalmist was pained in these circumstances, and said "Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because men keep not thy law."

What, Christian professor, is the character of your hope? Does it make you watchful, and conscientious, and devout? Does it check the risings of envy, and malice, and every unholiness? Does it draw out your soul after God, in sweet and holy aspirations? It cannot be long before your hope will be tried and proved. If it is found to be delusive at death, and in the judgment, the loss you will sustain will be an irretrievable and an eternal loss. Who can conceive the anguish of that soul that awakes in eternity, and, for the first time, learns that he has built "with hay, wood, and stubble?" But there will be thousands of such cases. Shall yours increase the number?—*Phil. Observer.*

REV. JOHN WESLEY ON HIS DEATH BED.—The "Life of William Wilberforce, by his Son," contains the following letter from the late Rev. John Wesley, to Mr. Wilberforce, urging him to renewed and unceasing exertions against Negro Slavery. They are probably the last words he ever wrote; for the letter was written on his death-bed, the day before he sank into a lethargy from which he was never aroused:—

February 24, 1791.

"MY DEAR SIR—Unless divine power has raised you up to be as *Athanasius contra mundum*, I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise, in opposing that execrable villany which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for that very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils: but if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? Oh! be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God, and in the power of his might, till even American slavery, the vilest that ever saw the sun, shall vanish away before it. That He who has guided you from your youth up, may continue to strengthen you in this and all things, is the prayer of, dear sir, your affectionate servant, JOHN WESLEY."

## WORK FOR ABOLITIONISTS.

## TO THE ABOLITIONISTS OF VERMONT:

At the last Annual Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society, the following Resolution was adopted:—  
"Resolved, That it be recommended to such State, or other auxiliaries, as are disposed to take the charge of the abolition cause within their respective fields, to make arrangements with the Executive Committee of this Society, GUARANTEEING to our treasurer such stated payments as may be judged reasonable, and then assume, within their own limits, the entire direction of lecturers and agents, in forming local societies, collecting funds, circulating memorials and establishing libraries; and that this society will not send its agents to labor for these objects in such States, as carry out this plan, except in concurrence with the State Executive Committee."

The subject of the above resolution, claiming the attention of the Executive Committee of the State Society, it was our unanimous judgment, that the interests of the cause would be best subserved by the Society's acceding to the proposed measure; and in its behalf we have accordingly renewed the pledge made at the last Anniversary of the parent Society—to pay its treasurer two thousand dollars within the current year, with the additional stipulation, that this sum is to be free from all expense of collection; and have also taken the general supervision of the abolition cause in this State, during the remainder of the term of our appointment.

In order to the successful prosecution of the anti-slavery enterprise within our limits, in accordance with the responsibilities thus assumed, the concerted, harmonious, and vigorous co-operation of all the friends of the cause throughout the State, is indispensable, and to this end the Committee would earnestly call your attention to the following suggestions.

We have associated for the purpose of abolishing American Slavery; and that, only by moral, peaceful means. We have identified ourselves with the slave, and resolved never to remit our efforts until he is restored to his inalienable but plundered rights. To effect this great object, great sacrifices must be made; time, and talent, and money, must be freely offered up, and every friend of Humanity, who has a heart to sympathize with the suffering slave, must contribute according to the ability with which God has blessed him—each, in that department of labor which conscience and duty point out to him, must put forth his energetic efforts, or the work cannot be done. Compassion for the slave and his oppressor, and regard for our country's weal, and for the stability of her republican institutions, and the security of our own liberties, and even economy in the work itself, demand that it be done immediately. The longer it is deferred the stronger is the opposition and the greater the obstacles to be overcome.

With this view of the subject, the work before us is plain:—

- 1st. Our pledge to the parent society must be promptly redeemed.
- 2nd. Anti-slavery societies must be formed in every town, village and county in the state, where it has not already been done.
- 3rd. Anti-slavery libraries must be established, if possible, in every town.
- 4th. Petitions or remonstrances to the state or national legislatures must be circulated in every town in the state; and speedy and vigorous efforts must be used to enlist the strong and abiding moral influence of the whole state, against slavery and in favor of anti-slavery principles and measures.

To effect these objects we must not, we cannot depend

on permanent and paid agents; we can neither get the men nor the means, and if we could, it would not be good economy to do the work by these instrumentalities alone. The county and town societies must each perform their part of the labor, by the help of volunteers and local agents of their own. We would, therefore, propose the following

## PLAN OF LABOR.

## I. COUNTY SOCIETIES.

1. Let each county society hold regular quarterly meetings, in different parts of the county, and let previous notice be duly given of them in the newspapers. Let suitable means be used to secure a large attendance of friends from all parts of the county, and others desirous to become acquainted with our principles and measures; let the executive committee of the county see that suitable speakers are provided for these meetings, and let no pains be spared to make them interesting and instructive.

2. Let the secretary of the county society keep a complete list of all the local agents and volunteer lecturers in the county, and let him furnish the secretary of each town society with a copy of this list, that they may know who to call upon for any particular service, when needed.

3. Previous to each election of members of the state legislature, let the executive committee of the county society address the following, or a similar query, to every candidate for the office to be filled:—

Will you, if elected (senator or representative, as the case may be,) use the utmost of your ability to procure the immediate abolition of slavery and the slave-trade in the District of Columbia and inter-state-slave-trade, and also to prevent the admission of Texas or any new state into the union with a constitution allowing slavery within its limits?

## II. TOWN SOCIETIES.

It is advised,

1. That town societies hold meetings regularly once a quarter, or oftener if practicable, for the purpose of lectures and discussions, of attending to the various subjects connected with the cause, and of sustaining a lively interest therein, which can alone warrant any reasonable hope of success.

2. That each society appoint one man and one woman, members of the society, as agents to take charge of each school district in town.

3. That those agents have a complete list of the heads of families, and the names of every person over eighteen years of age in their respective districts.

4. That the agents be furnished at once with subscription papers, pledging those who sign them to pay annually or quarterly during the continuance of slavery, or until their names are withdrawn, the sums annexed to their names; and that the agents circulate those subscription papers throughout the town; neglecting none because they are not members of the society, if they are friendly to the cause, nor any because they are unable to subscribe largely—only let an equal distribution of the burthen be made, according to each one's ability, and none will be oppressed. The agents should also see that the subscriptions are promptly paid as they become due.

5. As fast as the collections are paid over to the treasurer of the town society, he should remit all that is designed for the state society to its treasurer, and all money for the American society should also pass through the hands of the treasurer of the state society. Punctuality and promptness on the part of individuals and town societies in redeeming their subscription pledges are indispensable to the successful prosecution of our whole enterprise. EVERY INSTANCE OF DELAY OR FAILURE TENDS TO EMBARRASS THE WHOLE MOVEMENT.

6. Where it has not already been done, immediate measures should be taken to establish a Library of Anti-Slavery Literature in each town in the state, with branches in different places, so as to render the books of easy access to all who may be induced to read them. The following are recommended as among the more important; which, together with a large assortment of anti-slavery books and pamphlets, may be had at the Depository of the Vermont A. S. S. in Vergennes, kept by J. E. Roberts, at wholesale prices for any amount over \$10, and in all cases at the New York prices: Jay's Inquiry, Thome and Kimball, Child's Appeal, Charles Ball, Rankin's Letters, Anti-Slavery Manual, Weld's Bible Argument, Wylie on the District of Columbia. These books, and others which may be added to the library, should be placed in the hands of active, efficient librarians, who will not only see that they are properly used, but that they are read and exchanged. No book should be allowed to remain in the same hands more than two weeks. The books read and exchanged among parents and children under such simple regulations as the society may desire, cannot fail to produce the most favorable results.

7. Circulate the constitution of the town society in every school district once in three months.

8. When blank petitions or remonstrances for the state or national legislature are sent out, let the agents in each district immediately present them for signatures to every man and woman of lawful age in said district.

9. Let the agents also supply every family in town with an Anti-Slavery Almanac; let those who will not purchase be furnished with them at the expense of the town society.

A better tract for general circulation can rarely be found.

10. On the first of January the secretary of each town society should forward a report of the doings of the society for the year to the secretary of the county society, stating the number of its members; the names of its officers; the amount of funds raised; the number of meetings held, and of addresses delivered before it, and by whom; the number of volumes in its library; of almanacs distributed, and of names obtained to petitions and remonstrances, and any other facts of interest or importance to the cause.

11. The establishment of an anti-slavery paper in this state, as an organ of communication among ourselves as well as a means of spreading out more widely our principles, has long been regarded by the committee as an object of very great importance to the cause; and we now have the pleasure of informing you that we have secured the labors of C. L. KNAPP to take charge of a paper to be published at Montpelier, weekly, at \$2,00 per annum in advance, under the title of "THE VOICE OF FREEDOM." In his ability to discharge the duties of this responsible department of labor, and his zeal and fidelity to the cause, we have the fullest confidence, and we trust our friends throughout the state will not be wanting in their cordial and efficient support to a measure which promises so much advantage to our enterprise. Let every agent in the school districts circulate the prospectus for The Voice of Freedom thoroughly, and forward the names to ALLEN & POLAND, publishers, Montpelier.

12. Finally, let every friend of the cause who receives a copy of this, preserve it in some place where it will often meet his eye and remind him of his duty. Let these recommendations be carried out, and we shall find the work rapidly advancing. And it can never be done unless every abolitionist will take his share of the responsibility, and perform his share of the labor.

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the Vermont Anti-Slavery Society.

ROWD T. ROBINSON,  
HARVEY F. LEAVITT.